



Early Childhood and Family Education

Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

Summer-Fall 2017

Welcome!

By: Barbara Schrag

Thank you to all of you ASDB Early Childhood parents and family members for everything you do on a daily basis to support your child's development! Research shows us in the first few year of life, parental involvement has a significant impact on a child's overall development. Your involvement affects your child's skills in language, thinking, motor, and self help. Furthermore, with school age children, parental involvement has been found to have a more profound impact on the life of that child, than family background, income, size of family or parent education. So please take as many opportunities as you can throughout your daily routines with your child to interact – talk, sign, sing, explore, play, read, laugh, etc. You can, and do make a difference!

Barbara Schrag
Director, ECFE



Audiology Corner



Kathryn Wexler, Au.D., Clinical Associate Professor at ASU is providing Audiology clinics twice a month for our Early Childhood families in Phoenix. These clinics are to support and supplement the services that families receive from their primary managing Audiologist. Kathy has worked as a clinical audi-

ologist for over 30 years and has worked with the ASDB Early Childhood Program in the past as a contracted Audiologist with Arizona State University. She continues to work and teach at ASU supervising graduate students and providing diagnostic services to children of all ages at the ASU Speech and Hearing Clinic. Kathy offers

clinics to our ASDB families at the ASU campus on the second Friday of the month and at the PSDS campus on the fourth Monday of the month. If you would like to schedule an appt with Kathy please talk to your ASDB Hearing Teacher.

Change of Plans

By: Kristi Lawrence, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Flagstaff

“Turn at the white horse and white house with blue trim at end of the road.” These are often the types of directions I get when traveling across rural Northern Arizona. Surprisingly only 2 times in the 25 years of driving these roads have I gotten lost. The rural roads I travel are in some of the most beautiful parts of Arizona where GPS does little to no good and the people living “off the grid” are equally as beautiful.

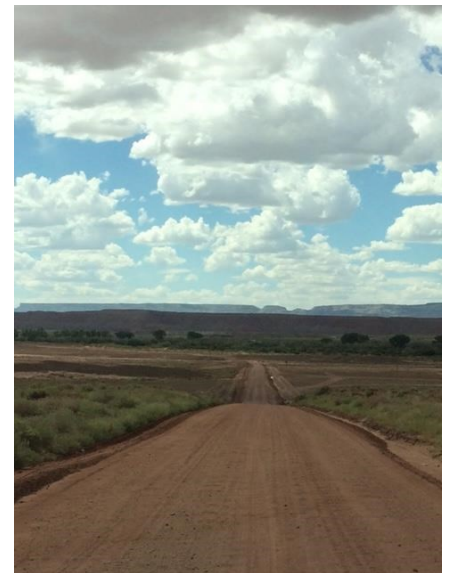
Families in rural Arizona understand the distances needed to travel to get to them. They are most grateful for whatever amount of vision visits they can get in, they understand my delays due to rain, mud, flooded washes, snow and ice. But as a home visitor I too must understand they are dealing with these same delays. Often a family needs to get groceries or go to doctor visits but is unable to leave their home due to muddy roads or must leave in the

wee hours of the morning when roads are frozen and not return home till late at night when roads refreeze. Usually the first day they can get out is also the first day I can get in. It is important I understand when they cancel.

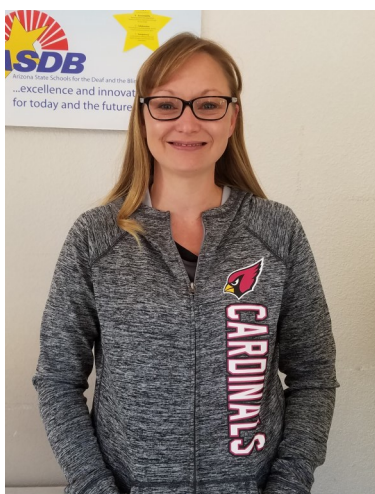
Families have helped me to get creative with where our “home” visits take place; in a car sitting beside a flooded wash, at a Chapter house or other office building, doctor’s offices and hospitals, at a school, sitting outside, and of course at relatives homes. The fact that mostly families go to great lengths to keep our meetings far out weigh the times they must cancel due to weather, sickness or family emergencies.

Sitting outside one day with no “toys” in sight was a great time to play with a 2 ½ year old girl who is visually impaired.

We started picking up small rocks and dropping them into an empty coke can. That day she worked on using her vision, eye hand coordination, fine motor skills, depth perception and turn taking. Wow, I couldn’t have planned it any better!



Welcome Tia Marquis



Please welcome Tia Marquis to the Early Childhood and Family Education family in the Northern region. She is so excited to be a new Early Childhood Teacher for the deaf/hard of hearing and feels blessed with an amazing team. Previously, she was a school age Teacher for almost two years. She has also taught special education as well as general education. She is married to her wonderful hus-

band and they have a beautiful nine year old daughter. They relocated to Northern Arizona from Phoenix about 12 years ago. She wants to thank everyone for welcoming her to ECFE! She is so happy to be here.



Parent/Toddler Class



Families in northern Arizona attended our Parent Toddler Orientation Meeting at Mountain Valley Park in Prescott Valley on 10/6/17. Lisa Ring and Helen McDowell will be leading our northern area Parent/Toddler Class, which will be meeting once a month this

fall in the Prescott Valley area. Families enjoyed a short circle time with a story and songs, playing on the park equipment, snacks and refreshments, and an opportunity to get acquainted with other families in northern Arizona. Our next Parent Toddler Class will be October 27th from 9:30-11:00 at Prescott Valley School District Offices, which will be a fall/Halloween themed class time. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Ring at 928-266-6722 in the Flagstaff ASDB Early Childhood and Family Education office.



Welcome Maryssa Fawbush



We are excited to welcome Maryssa Fawbush, our new ECFE Administrative Secretary in the Northern region. Maryssa was born and raised in Flagstaff. She is currently enrolled at Coconino Community College as a full time student. She loves school and learning, especially new languages and anything to do with the Criminal Justice

System. She is an extreme animal lover and has a cat named Sev and a dog named Snickers. She considers The Beatles to be the best music group to ever exist and John Lennon is her favorite, of course. She is very excited to be a part of this wonderful and welcoming team.

East Valley Furniture Assistance for an ECFE family

By: Mary Ann Lester, Teacher of the Hearing Impaired, Phoenix

On August 17th, a trailer pulled up in front of the apartment of one of our Apache Junction families. It was loaded with beds, and at the helm was Earl

Beasley from Gold Canyon United Methodist Church. In his retirement, Earl spends part of his time picking up donated furniture, and delivering it to

families in need.

For this specific family with seven children, he delivered a bunk bed, with a double bunk below, and a queen bed. He also purchased sheets and pillows at his own expense, to ensure that the family could use the beds right away.

After many phone calls, and research, the previous Service Coordinator from Dynamite Therapies, Tracy Wright, found this wonderful resource. Needless to say, the family was delighted, and we are so grateful to Earl Beasley for his generosity!



Staff Changes

This past year we bid a fond farewell to three of our Early Childhood Teachers as they went on to pursue other career opportunities. Sonia Samaniego is now working for the Office of Special Healthcare Needs and, among other things, is helping to provide for more hearing screening opportunities in the state of Arizona. Angela Gray has moved to the school aged population and is working with high school students. Finally, Jamie Sepulveda, who recently relocated to Phoenix, has taken a position with Desert Voices. We wish all of these fine ladies the best and will miss them.



Welcome Betsy Twist

Please join us in welcoming Betsy Twist to our Early Intervention team. Betsy comes to us by way of the PDSB Preschool and was a hearing specialist in Seattle, WA prior to moving to the Phoenix area. Betsy has expertise in the area of Listening and Spoken Language. She likes to laugh and play sports. We are thrilled to have her join us!



Strong Families Conference



September 6th and 7th several Early Childhood Teachers were able to attend the Strong Families conference in Phoenix to build on early intervention provision skills.

Pictured from left to right:

Back row: Allie Scott, Linda Kennedy, Lauren Smith, Lisa Ring, Sandy O'Connor, Mary Ann Lester, Laura Hocknull

Front row: Kristy Lawrence, Tia Marquis

Missing from photo: Betsy Twist

Save the Date!

ECFE Central Region Fall Festival

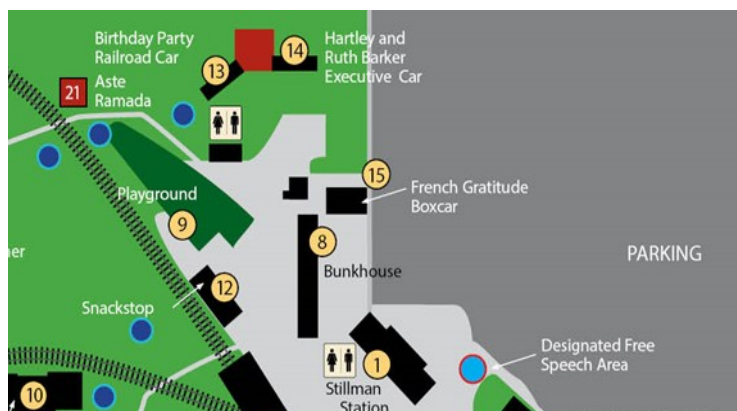
When: Friday, November 3rd, 2017 3:00—7:00 pm

Where: McCormick Train Park Aste Ramada (21 on map)
7301 E Indian Bend Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85250

What: 3:00-5:30pm: Face painting, story time, crafts, train/carousel rides, and mingling and then 5:30-7:00pm pizza will be served

*We will provide 1 ticket to be used either at the train or carousel per immediate family member of a child enrolled in our program. Additional tickets can be purchased for \$2/ticket

RSVP by
October 27th at
<https://asdb.az.gov/ecfe/event/asdb-early-childhood-fall-festival/>
or by texting your name and # of attendees to 602-527-4146



Adventures at the Museum

By: Marybeth Fowler, Teacher of the Hearing Impaired, Tucson

In Tucson we now have a membership for the Children's Museum. During the past several months, several of our families have had an outing to the museum with their Teacher. It was great fun! At the museum, the children had the opportunity to experience a vast number of age appropriate activities while the parents engaged with them to elicit target language



and pragmatic goals. In addition, the parents got a chance to meet each other and interact while their children played together. The Children's Museum's membership provides yet one more opportunity for our

families to have a fun family outing while fostering the growth and development of their children. If you have not yet visited the Children's Museum with your Hearing Specialist/Teacher here in Tucson, and would like to do so, just let your Teacher know!



Welcome Mircela Galindo

Please welcome Mircela Galindo to the team of Early Childhood Teachers in the Southern part of our state! Mircela works as a fulltime bilingual teacher for our Early Childhood Programs. She comes to us from AZEIP where she was working as a Service Coordinator. Mircela's background also includes experience working as a behavioral technician,

providing ABA therapy to children and teens. Mircela enjoys traveling and hiking in her off time. She is happy to join the ECFE team and looks forward to meeting new families.



Meet Isaiah!

Meet Isaiah, 5 months old, and his mom Liliana and his dad Isaac who live in Casa Grande. Isaiah has been wearing hearing aids since he was 3 months old, and has grown so much he already has gotten his second set of earmolds.

Isaiah wears his hearing aids for most of the day when he is awake, and the family uses a cute pilot cap to help keep the hearing aids on when he is moving around on his tummy and

back.

Isaiah loves music, especially the musical giraffe that hangs from his baby gym. Whenever Dad pushes the giraffe to make music, Isaiah smiles and coos, watching dad move with the music.

Liliana loves to sing to Isaiah, and he smiles and loves to hear his Mom sing songs to him.

Isaiah is cooing back and forth with Mom, Dad and Grandma more and more every week. Whenever someone talks to him or his toys make noise, he will turn to see what it is. Every week, Isaiah



is becoming more aware of all the people, sounds and toys around him. Liliana and Isaac love watching Isaiah become more aware of everything and everyone in his world.



Welcome Roxanne Dahl

Please officially welcome Roxanne Dahl, our Early Childhood Teacher in Yuma! Roxanne has been working on a part time basis for our Early Childhood program for many years but has now dedicated 20 hours a week to working with the Early Childhood families in Yuma and LaPaz (Lake Havasu) Counties. The other 20 hours a week Roxanne works with the Southwest Regional Coopera-

tive providing support to school age deaf/hard of hearing children in Public Schools. Roxanne brings with her over 30 years of teaching experience! While not working, Roxanne spends time with her husband Kevin and two daughters Nicole (23) and Kathryn (20). Roxanne enjoys traveling, volunteering, sewing and crafting.

Below Roxanne is working with Gabriela Torres and her beautiful daughter "Yami."



Save the Date!

ECFE Southern Region Fall Festival

Come enjoy a morning of food, face painting, games and more!
Meet other families in our program and enjoy the cooler weather
on our playground!

Where: Arizona Schools for the Deaf and the Blind,
1200 West Speedway
Clifford Building

When: Saturday, November 11, 2017

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm



*If you have any
questions or need
assistance, please
contact us at:*

*Tucson Office:
(520) 770-3002*

*Phoenix Office:
(602) 771-5204*

*Flagstaff Office:
(928) 774-0655*

*Yuma Office:
(928) 317-0429*